

# Public Involvement Report 2

## Community Open House August 29, 2013 and Focus Groups

On August 29, 2013 Design Arts Studio and Andersen Shell Consulting, LLC in conjunction with CRA staff held the second large community meeting for the Panama City Cultural Heritage Tourism District. This event was held in the Glenwood Community Center from 4 until 8 pm. In addition, six focus groups were organized by the team during the months of July and August and the results of these efforts are presented herein.



*Andersen Shell Consulting LLC*

# Open House

## August 29 Meeting Format:

This important second meeting was conducted in an informal walk through open house format. This format gave attendees the opportunity to discuss the proposals one on one with the consulting team. The conceptual urban design, multi-modal facilities plan, and land use scenario were presented in a graphical format and displayed on easels. Once the attendees had walked through the graphical display they were asked to place a red dot sticker on any major concept ideas that they did not agree with or had some objection to. The results of the preference voting are as below.

## Voting Results:

Grocery Store Complex at MLK Jr. Blvd and 15<sup>th</sup>

2 votes of disagreement

A.D. Harris as Cultural Center with Performing Arts Venue, Galleries and Exhibit Space

2 votes of disagreement

Multi-Family Residential Development at MLK Jr. Blvd and 11<sup>th</sup> Street

3 votes of disagreement

Mixed Use Development Along MLK Jr. Blvd

4 votes of disagreement

Live Work Space for Artists Across from A.D. Harris

1 vote of disagreement

## Event Stats:

- 61 Attendees
- 20 Votes
- 14 Comments

New Museum at Glenwood Community Center Site

1 vote of disagreement

Multi-Story Mixed Use Complex (restaurant, retail, motel) Across MLK Jr. Blvd from Museum Site

3 votes of disagreement

Medical Offices Near Bay Medical

3 votes of disagreement

Waterfront Restaurant and Boardwalk

1 vote of disagreement

### Sticky Note Comments:

- Palo Alto is narrow, no right of way exists for pedestrian mobility
- Concern with taking property by eminent domain
- A.D. Harris is a historical site
- No toilet facilities at Henry Davis Park
- More sidewalks
- More landscaping
- Bigger gateway
- Fish dock, restaurant on Watson Bayou and boat launch
- No parking at Henry Davis Park
- Outdoor water fall
- Skating for youth
- Skating rink
- Public art must be commissioned and maintained
- 15<sup>th</sup> street divided highway makes accessibility difficult

## Analysis of Votes:

The votes of disagreement are for the most part related to the non-residential or mixed use and office development along the MLK Jr. Blvd Corridor. Neighborhood preservation was a consistent theme and throughout the evening, attendees voiced concern for neighborhood preservation. This concern is evidenced in the votes above and increased non-residential development along MLK Jr. Blvd without consideration for buffering and future non-residential encroachment is seen as problematic.

The general consensus and agreement was good, in all there was very little disagreement. Areas of concern to be addressed are how to better preserve the existing neighborhoods and how to convey this message in the District Plan.

*August 29  
Open House*





# Focus Groups to Date

## Business and Tourism Focus Group

Stats: 4 attendees including Bay County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development and Tourism, and Bay Medical

Input:

- Idea of Linking Downtown and St. Andrews to the District
- Include the Bay Medical Facility and its Possible Future Expansion
- Appeal to the Creative Class, Create a Unique Place
- Focus on Food and Unique Cultural Restaurants
- Focus on Local Tourism

## Artists Focus Group

Stats: 6 attendees including performing artists and other mixed media artists

Input:

- Need for Large Public Open Space
- AD Harris as Art/Cultural Center
- Public Art Should be Grand – Gateways and Entrances
- Display Space
- Historical Markers and Tour

## Downtown North Design Focus Group

Stats: 7 attendees

Input:

- Authentic Design that is true to the character of the community
- Self- contained community with appropriate mix of services, entertainment and shopping
- MLK Boulevard is crucial – restore commercial core that was destroyed by FDOT project

- B&Bs
- Ethnic and soul food restaurants
- Venues for performing arts
- Activities that foster culture
- Local history museum
- Pool or similar community center

## Historical Focus Group

Stats: 16 Attendees

Input:

- Historical Markers under the Marker Program from Bay County Historical Society (suggested sites are Old Panama Grammar School and Old Segler Farmhouse, Greater Bethel Church, East End and Shine Town, the first Black neighborhoods)
- Mobile Church Tour
- Commercial hub for community that includes: large black and multicultural beauty salon, family restaurant, bowling alley, theater, visitor center, park where volunteer teachers can teach an etiquette class and instill pride in children and make them worldly.
- Large Museum complex with multiple levels and the ability to host community events and exhibitions in addition to artifacts.
- Grocery store
- Community Swimming pool
- Boys and Girls Club
- Participation in marker program
- Pave parking lots and make them available for use (Greater Bethel Church)
- Promote local history in commercial activities under the Chamber of Commerce and the Black Chamber of Commerce.
- Make the existing MLK walk part of the historical walk and trail
- Hold MLK festival in the District rather than elsewhere in the City
- Create a pedestrian overpass on MLK Jr. Blvd

- Host athletic competitions
- Host Grace festivals
- Host music competition
- Shot gun houses on Lincoln and Roosevelt etc. can be converted to shopping booths at the corner of 15th and MLK
- Waterfront park with boardwalk along headwaters of Watson Bayou

## Youth Focus Group

### Stats:

25 children aged between 9-18.

Group a: 9-10 years (7 members)

Group b: 11-14 years (6 members)

Group c: 11-14 years (5 members)

Group d: 15-18 years (7 members)

11 of these children reside within the District

4 of the children walk to school

16 of them feel safe in the neighborhood but not always at night

### Input:

- Bigger and Better Houses, Sports and Pool Facilities
- Road Repairs, Streetlights, Sidewalks
- Community Center with Indoor Basketball Court, Skate Park, and Free wi-fi, Walking Park, Arcade
- Park, Pool, More Community Activity
- Arts Classes



## Glenwood Working Partnership / African American Cultural Center Board Focus Group

Stats: 17 attendees

### Input:

- African-American Museum
- Prominent markers at sites of old businesses and buildings of historical importance
- Markers for historical black churches and church tour
- Cultural Center
- Showcase local community's artists and musicians
- Ethnic food
- Black entertainment (Chitlin), black music
- Mixed-use housing, offices, swimming pool
- Ease of Access along MLK Jr. Blvd from East to West, wider sidewalks, improve drainage
- Athletic center
- Venue/banquet hall for events and parties
- Walking park (can utilize City land) and bike paths
- Urban farm
- Affordable housing
- Movie theater
- Farmers market
- Parking facilities (1th St. and MLK Jr. Blvd)
- Grocery store
- More prominent Cultural Center (Museum)
- Ambulatory- accessible senior-living apartment complex
- Choir unions
- 'Freedom' program to inculcate values and sense of history and identity among Black youth

- Alternative energy to lower utility expenses
- Above minimum-wage employment opportunities
- Large stores that pay good wages and benefits and hire locally
- Professional parks/buildings including specialist physicians' offices
- Gas station
- Community vegetable store to supply ethnic foods and vegetables
- Super Dollar General store or similar inexpensive store
- Churches' Chicken restaurant
- Farmers Market
- Retail area for boutique shops and small local independent businesses
- Light manufacturing facility that hires locally and encourages economic stability

*GWP/Cultural  
Center Board  
Focus Group*



*History and Youth  
Focus Groups*



## Public Involvement Concept Mapping:

The following graphic looks at the combined results from the First Community Meeting, the Focus Group Meetings, and the Community Open House. The center of the bull's eye represents the Cultural Heritage District Concept and the key supporting facilities and activities are listed. As we move further from the center of the bull's eye to the next concentric ring, there are ancillary facilities and activities that support the District Concept. The outside ring moves further away from the District Concept.

